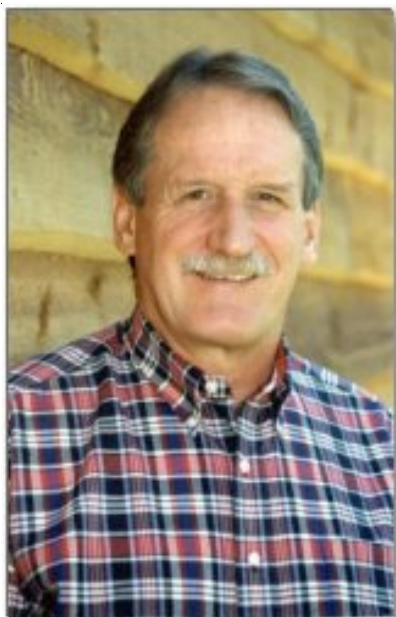




Conference Dates Quickly Approaching!



*General Session Speaker -
Mac Bledsoe*

The dates for the 2004 conference are quickly approaching so for those of you who haven't registered be sure and get your registration in soon. With outstanding speakers like Hank Galpin and Ray Sanders "2003 National Air Tour", Susan Edsall "Into the Blue - A Father's Flight & A Daughter's Return", Mike Lavelle "100 Years Before the Wrights" and last but certainly not least "An Evening with Mr. Bob Hoover" this event is something you won't want to miss.

We are excited to have Mac Bledsoe President and Founder of the Drew Bledsoe Foundation conduct two general sessions at this year's conference. Mr. Bledsoe has been featured on the TODAY Show, ABC's 20/20 television show, and on numerous national and local radio and television programs. He has a way of connecting with people that makes them feel special and valued. He gives people, young and old alike, a sense of hope and confidence that they can improve their lives. You won't want to miss your chance to hear Mac's common sense, humorous, highly motivational message.

We are also looking forward to the participation of Malmstrom Air Force Base; they will be conducting special concurrent sessions on what they do at Malmstrom and around Montana, their Helicopter Flight Search & Rescue system, a K9 Dog Demo, and their Explosive Ordinance Detonation (EOD) team.

Friday evening's dinner/dance will be held in the airports new panorama room with entertainment by the Ringling 5. These seven Montana natives combine music and mirth, and their off-the-wall humor sparks audience participation. They call themselves the Ringling 5 because they like the name and there are more of them than there are people in the town of Ringling, Montana. Following the Ringling 5's performance DJ, Steve Keller will put on some dancing music, sure to be a fun evening for everyone!

A reminder for those of you flying in both Holman Aviation and Front Range Aviation will be offering fuel discounts of \$0.15 per gallon for fuel purchases made during the conference. (Just ask for the conference discount).

For lodging reservations phone the Heritage Inn at (406) 761-1900 or 1-800-5489-8256 for a special conference rate of \$73 plus tax or the Heritage Inn Express at 1-800-362-4842 for a conference rate of \$55 plus tax. The Crystal Inn is also offering a discount to conference participants, (406) 727-7788.

To register for the conference complete the registration form on page 8 and return it to the Aeronautics Division no later than March 1. Those that pre-register are eligible for a special giveaway.

We hope you'll be able to join us as we move "Wright into the next Century".



Friday Evening's Entertainment - Ringling 5

Administrator's Column

A Flying Start into the Big Sky:

This close to 100-page softback book was published in 1998 and is co-authored by Pat Gudmundson, Helena; Gene Etchart, Glasgow and Orval Markle, Glasgow. This book is instrumental in preserving Montana aviation flying school history and looks back at the Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPTP) that trained more than 150 Montana pilots in the program. The story speaks to the late 1930's when WWII was brewing and President Franklin D. Roosevelt and military leaders felt that important U.S. interests would cause us to become involved in the war alongside our future allies England and France. The U.S. was unprepared for war in all aspects and in 1938 President Roosevelt announced his plan to train 20,000 college-age students to fly annually. In 1939 classes were approved and started in Montana. Pat Burke Gudmundson arrived in Havre in the summer of 1940 as one of three girls in a class of 30 Civilian Pilot Training students. I had the pleasure recently to spend some time with Pat who relocated to Helena from Miles City a few years ago. At 84 years young, Pat is a delightful woman whom loves talking and writing about her pilot training, days spent working for the flight school and her many years employed at the Miles City newspaper.

Spending bill approved: In late January the Senate approved a \$328 billion spending measure that will fund most federal agencies, including the Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2004.....BUT

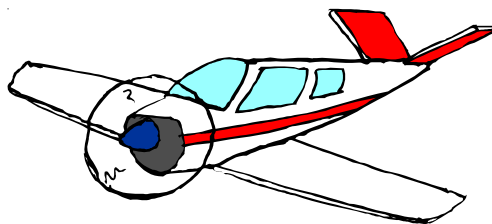
President's Fiscal Year 2005 Budget:

that was recently unveiled has been met by opposition by both Republicans and Democrats because of major cuts in FAA and EAS spending. The president proposed to cut FAA's facilities and equipment budget by \$393 million. The Essential Air Service program would be capped at \$50 million, roughly a 50% reduction in funding from FY04. In a meeting of the Montana Governor's Essential Air Service Task Force this month, community representatives were told by staff members of Montana's three congressional offices that

Montana's delegation will fight again this year to preserve the EAS program for Montana. Each year for the past several years, the administrations proposed budget for the essential air service program has been \$50 million. Increased funding requests have been successful for the program due in part to intense involvement and support from Senators Baucus and Burns and Representative Rehberg.

SkyWest Airlines, Number One On-time Carrier:

SkyWest Airlines ranks number one in the nation in on-time performance for 2003 with 87.6% of their flights arriving on-time. The report tracks the top 18 domestic air carriers' performance on a monthly basis. SkyWest was added to the Air Travel Consumer Report in January 2003 by the U.S. Department of Transportation and received the honor in their first year appearing on the report. SkyWest's on-time performance bests many of the largest airlines in the world. Congratulations!



Twenty-nine hundred copies of this public document were produced at an estimated cost of 39 cents each, for a total cost of \$1,131. This includes \$200 for production, \$750 for postage and \$181 for printing.

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Judy Martz, Governor
David A. Galt, Director

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Calendar

February 7, 2004 – Monthly fly-in breakfast, which will be held the 1st Saturday of each month through May 1, 2004 at Billings Logan International Airport in the EAA Chapter hangar located at the west end of the airport from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Sponsored by EAA Chapter 57 & South Central MPA members. For further information contact Larry Mayer at larry.mayer@lee.net.

February 7-8, 2004 – Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic – Helena. For further information phone Montana Aeronautics Division (406) 444-2506.

February 21, 2004 - EAA Chapter 517 breakfast. For further information see web site www.eaa517.org.

February 25-26, 2004 – 1st Annual Montana Aerospace Technology Conference. Fairmont Hot Springs Resort. For additional information contact: Linda Brander, Montana Department of Commerce, (406) 841-2749 or lbrander@state.mt.us.

March 4-6, 2004 – Montana Aviation Conference, Heritage Inn, Great Falls. For further information phone (406) 444-2506.

March 11-13, 2004 - Women in Aviation International Conference, Reno Nevada. For more information phone (386) 226-7996 or visit the web site at www.wai.org.

April 15, 2004 – Rocky Mountain College “The Economic Impact of Aviation in Montana” Conference. For more information, go to Rocky’s web site at www.rocky.edu or call (406) 657-1149.

May 10-14, 2004 – Laurel Aviation & Technology Week. For further information contact Druann Kerns (406) 628-3357.

June 12, 2004 – North Central Fly-In breakfast & Toy-Show, Havre Airport.

Aviation Careers - Wright Into the Next Century!!

Date: March 4, 2004

10:00am to 11:30am

Where: Best Western Heritage Inn -
Great Falls, MT

The Aviation Career Panel is sponsored by
Montana Aeronautics Division.

Explore exciting aviation careers in fields like the Airlines, Airframe and Air Plant Mechanic, the Air Force, Air Guard, Life Flight, Charter, Flight Instructor Careers and more.

For: Middle School & High School Students.

Win Aviation Door Prizes!!!

Contact: Jeanne MacPherson
Montana Aeronautics Division

PO Box 200507 - Helena - MT 59620-0507
Phone (406) 444-2506 - Fax (406) 444-2519

Email: jemacpherson@state.mt.us



AMAA Convention/ Trade Show



The Association of Montana Aerial Applicators held their annual convention/trade show in Great Falls at the Heritage Inn January 26-27. Participants were able to receive both IA recertification points as well as those for their Department of Ag certificate. Debbie Alke updated participants on what was happening at Montana Aeronautics and Will Metz, AMAA Aeronautics Board Representative reported on loan & grants the Board issued to Montana's airports. Congratulations to AMAA for another successful convention.

Airport Loans & Grants Awarded

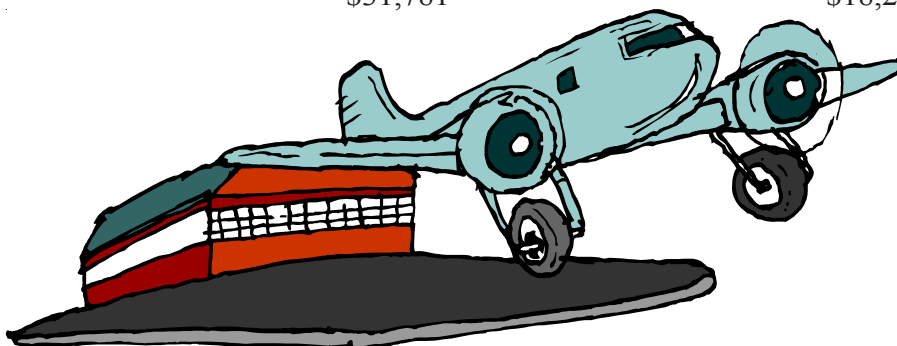
By: Jim Greil, Airports/Airways Bureau Chief

Every year, the Montana Aeronautics Division makes available grants and low interest loans to eligible airport sponsors throughout Montana for the purpose of airport improvements. All airports that are publicly owned and operated for public use are eligible. Each airport is sent an application in October of each year and application deadline is the end of November. The Division can generally provide grants in the amount of up to 50% of the sponsors cost and/or loans for up to 100%. The loans are to be repaid at ½ of the prime-lending rate. Any type of airport project is eligible and projects can be applied for retroactively. After receiving the applications, the Division will rank the applications and provide the results to the Aeronautics Board at their January meeting, where the board will award loans and grants at their sole discretion. Most airports applying for money will have representatives speak on their behalf at this meeting. The money for these loans and grants comes from a 2 cent per gallon tax on general aviation fuel.

As is the case nearly every year, this year the Division received near record numbers of loan and grant applications. Nearly 2 million dollars in financial aid was applied for, but the Division had only a fraction of that money available to award. After the smoke had cleared, the Division had awarded the following airports the amounts listed. Hats off to the Aeronautics Board and the many engineers and community representatives that put a great deal of time and effort into their presentations.

GRANTS AND LOANS AWARDED BY MONTANA AERONAUTICS DIVISION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

<u>AIRPORT</u>	<u>GRANT AMOUNT</u>	<u>LOAN AMOUNT</u>
Big Timber		\$5,000
Columbus	\$1,500	\$1,500
Twin Bridges	\$5,000	
Cut Bank	\$5,000	
Three Forks	\$9,750	\$9,750
Superior	\$53,075	\$86,791
Ekalaka	\$27,752	
Shelby	\$37,500	\$37,500
Ennis	\$1,925	
Roundup	\$1,400	\$1,400
Forsyth		\$31,332
Plains	\$27,000	\$27,000
Hardin	\$1,450	\$1,450
Livingston	\$7,325	\$7,325
Libby		\$3,750
Lewistown	\$3,500	
Kalispell City	\$17,500	
Dutton	\$3,500	
St. Ignatius	\$14,832	
Gardiner	\$30,000	
Hogeland	\$42,250	
Hot Springs		\$39,620
Hysham	\$31,781	\$18,219



2004 Winter Survival Clinic (20 Years and Counting)

By: Jim Greil, Airports/Airways Bureau Chief

Once again, the Montana Aeronautics Division hosted the annual Terry Surratt Memorial Winter Survival Clinic, the last weekend of January. The Montana Aeronautics Division has provided the winter survival clinic as a service to the public for 20 years. The clinic is a three day event in which participants are treated to an intensive afternoon and evening of lecture concerning a wide array of winter survival topics, followed by an overnight field exercise during which participants actually build and sleep in snow shelters and practice other various winter survival techniques as demonstrated by the instructors. The Montana Aeronautics Division utilizes the services of Skip Stoffel and his "Emergency Response Institute" (ERI). ERI has been a world leader in survival and related outdoor services for many years. Skip and his company have served under contract for survival and emergency training to some of the worlds most elite agencies, including several branches of the US military, the US coast Guard as well as various other private clients and 'adventurists'. Many years ago, the clinic was memorialized by the family of the late Terry Surratt, whom crashed his single engine plane North of Drummond, MT on a flight from Missoula to Billings during the winter. Terry apparently survived the crash, but later succumbed to exposure during his ordeal. The clinic is open to ANY member of the public, and a pilots license is NOT required.

This years clinic was hosted by Skip, Paul and Ralph from ERI. As the principle of ERI, Skip Stoffel is a one-of-a-kind, whose knowledge and experience in winter survival techniques is as vast as the Montana landscape. ERI is not only a wealth of survival information, they are also master instructors with a keen ability of showing even the most inexperienced student the tricks of the trade in an easy to understand format using a combination of classroom and field exercises. For this years event, we had intensive and very enjoyable classroom instruction with a room provided courtesy of the Montana Army Aviation National Guard. Classroom instruction covered many different topics ranging from the very latest in survival textiles to various survival habitation construction techniques. The morning after the classroom, ERI checked our gear and we all headed to the Lincoln airport for the field portion of our exercise. A couple hundred yards from the runway, we utilized a very secluded area of the surrounding forest to conduct our training. During the exercises, snow shelters were built and various other training ensued, included shelter construction, fire making and rescue signaling, including the actual demonstrated launching of various rockets, flares and smoke signal devices. As a refreshing break, the entire class also meets the next morning for an early breakfast and coffee at a local Lincoln establishment.

Although the overnight portion of the clinic may sound daunting to the newcomer, it is really quite enjoyable. Skip and his crew are meticulous about safety and training and strive to make sure that it is not only an informative experience, but also an enjoyable one. Having attended the clinic a number of times myself, I can say that even growing up as a rural Montanan' I was pleasantly surprised at the amount of winter survival skills of which even I had never heard. Over all, the experience was a real treat. The Montana Aeronautics Division provides this service as a courtesy to the public. Our Division is the leader among the fifty states when it comes to furthering this type of winter survival training.



Skip Stoffel of Emergency Response International critiques a snow cave Sunday morning.



We Did It!! The hearty winter survivors!!



Aviation & Technology Week

Once again, Laurel will be experiencing “education in the skies” when they host the next Aviation and Technology Week, May 10-14, 2004.

During the course of the week, students (K-12) from Montana and Wyoming will explore the latest in aviation and technology developments and associated career paths. Over 100 speakers from a wide range of corporate government sources fill the classrooms. By Wednesday and Thursday over 104 static ground displays are in place. Exhibits from a wide range of applied sciences and technologies fill both the high school and Thompson Park. Various helicopters land in Thompson Park also and are on display throughout the week.

Flyovers will be from 11:30 am – 2:00 pm at the Laurel Airport on Wednesday and Thursday. Probably flyovers will include an F-18, F-16, F-14, KC-135, KC-10, A-10, B-1 and B-2 bombers, B-52, C-130, and a T-38. In addition, many aircraft will be on display at the Billings Logan Airport on Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am – 11:00 am.

Anyone interested in participating in the event, whether it be bringing an aircraft, presenting a static display or speaking in the classroom, may contact Jeanne MacPherson at Montana Aeronautics Division, or Druann Kerns, Laurel Aviation and Technology Week, or you may visit our website: www.laurel.k12.mt.us.

Schools interested in bringing their students to this event may contact Marie Hart, secretary, Laurel Public Schools, for reservations. Schools must decide whether they would like to attend Wednesday, May 12th, or Thursday, May 13th. The event begins at 8:30 am and ends at 3:30 pm.

Laurel Aviation and Technology Week contacts are: Druann Kerns, Executive Director (406) 628-3357; druannk@laurel.k12.mt.us, Linda Campbell (406) 628-3334; linda_campbell@laurel.k12.mt.us, Marie Hart (406) 628-3351; marie_hart@laurel.k12.mt.us, Jeanne MacPherson (406) 444-2506; jemacpherson@state.mt.us.

Maintenance Facility Opens in Havre



Darrold Hutchinson of Hingham, has opened an aircraft maintenance facility at the Havre City County airport. Darrold has been working on general aviation aircraft for over twenty years. In addition to aircraft maintenance, Darrold and his wife Mary, own and operate Hutchinson Spraying Inc., an aerial application business serving North Central Montana, from the Havre City County Airport and their home base north of Hingham. Darrold's FAA Inspection Authorization allows him to do annual inspections as well as major or minor aircraft repairs. Darrold is also a CFII working with flight students and doing Biennial Flight Reviews. Darrold's facility is located on the north end of the hangar, second building west of the airport terminal. You can contact Darrold at his hangar (406) 265-2166, or at home (406) 355-4968 or feel free to stop in any time.

Rocky to Host Conference

Rocky Mountain College is hosting a conference called “The Economic Impact of Aviation in Montana,” on Thursday, April 15th, 2004 from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM in Losekamp Hall on Rocky's campus in Billings. Special guests at the conference include Senator Conrad Burns and the United States Undersecretary of Transportation. Included in the conference will be a panel discuss with representatives from most of the airlines that fly in Montana, discussing how their airlines operate in Montana and respond to issues unique to the state's economy. At 7:00 PM that evening, the Aviation Program at Rocky will host their annual Student Awards Banquet.

The conference during the day is free, and there will be a charge for the banquet. Both are open to the public. For more information, go to Rocky's web site at www.rocky.edu or call (406) 657-1149.



Montanan Receives Jimmy Doolittle Award

Excerpts taken from article that appeared October 8, 2003 in the Billings Gazette, by Tom Howard of the Gazette Staff

Sixty-one years ago, Lt. Col. Jim Muri of Billings saved his crippled B-26 bomber with a brilliant, improvised maneuver: He buzzed the flight deck of a Japanese aircraft carrier during the Battle of Midway to Avoid being shot down.

Muri's fearless flying in one of the most important battles of World War II was recognized when he received the Jimmy Doolittle Award for outstanding service to the U.S. Army Air Corps. The award was presented by the World War II Veterans Committee, a project of the nonprofit American Studies Center in Washington, D.C.

On June 4, 1942, Muri piloted one of four B-26 twin-engine bombers that took off from Midway Island to attack a powerful Japanese fleet planning to invade the tiny U.S. outpost about 1,100 miles northwest of Hawaii.

With the enemy fleet still miles away, Japanese fighters began raking the American planes with fire from machine guns and 20-mm cannons. The Americans tried to throw off the Zero's aim by diving toward the ocean and skidding the planes sideways.

"I did things to that airplane that it was never designed to do. We put it through some pretty violent maneuvers," Muri said. After launching the torpedo at the carrier, Muri pulled up on the yoke, banked and flew the plane right down the flight deck of the carrier Akagi. Because the ship's anti-aircraft guns were all pointing outward, hugging the deck was the only safe place to be. Muri, 85, still jokes that the plane would have touched down on the Akagi if he had lowered the landing gear. His evasive maneuver helped the plane and crew survive a desperate situation. "Strangely enough, the thing that impressed me the most was the size of that Japanese battle flag flying over the bridge," Muri said.

The plane suffered heavy damage, but Muri nursed it back to Midway and crash-landed. Muri was unhurt, but three of his crewman were wounded. He and the crewman were later awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. The Battle of Midway was a decisive victory for the United States. Japan lost four aircraft carriers and hundreds of its most experienced pilots. The U.S. Navy lost the carrier Yorktown but kept possession of Midway and checked Japan's advance in the Pacific.

Muri is the last surviving member of the plane No. 1391's crew. He was among several World War II veterans where were honored during the World War II Veterans Committee's sixth annual conference November 6-8, 2003 in Alexandria, VA.

Muri went on to a distinguished career in the U.S. Army Air Corps, forerunner of the U.S. Air Force. He left active duty in 1959, and returned to his native Montana in 1969. He and his wife, Alice, lived on Bridger Creek east of Big Timber for 30 years before moving to Billings in 1999. She died in 2001.



Larry Mayer/Gazette Staff

Laurel Pilot Earns Master Instructor Designation

The National Association of Flight Instructors (NAFI) takes pride in announcing a significant aviation accomplishment on the part of Laurie Ann Puckett, a Northern Skies Aviation flight instructor and a resident of Laurel, MT. Recently, Laurie was designated a Master CFI (Certified Flight Instructor) by NAFI, her professional aviation organization.

To help put his achievement in its proper perspective, there are approximately 81,000 CFIs in the United States. Fewer than 400 of them have achieved that distinction thus far. The last eight national Flight Instructors of the Year were Master CFIs while Laurie is one of only 4 Montana aviation educators to earn this prestigious "Master" title.

The Master Instructor designation is a national accreditation recognized by the FAA that is earned by a candidate through a rigorous process of continuing education and peer review. Much like a flight instructor's certificate, it must be renewed biennially. This process parallels the continuing education regimen used by other professionals to enhance their knowledge base while increasing their professionalism. Simply put, the Master Instructor designation is a means by which to identify those outstanding aviation educators, those "Teachers of Flight," who have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to excellence, professional growth, and service to the aviation community.

Earning this designation is a tantamount to having the words *summa cum laude* emblazoned on an instructor's certificate. These Masters truly represent the crème de la crème of our industry! To publicly recognize these individuals and their noteworthy accomplishments, NAFI will be hosting its "Meet the Masters" breakfast, to which Laurie has been invited, during EAA's AirVenture in Oshkosh and Sun n' Fun in Lakeland. Any support that can be provided will be appreciated.

NAFI is dedicated to providing support and recognition for America's aviation educators while helping them raise and maintain their level of professionalism. It is also committed to providing a safe and effective learning environment for student pilots. The Association was founded in 1967 and affiliated with EAA in May of 1995.

Mail to:
Montana Aeronautics Division
P.O. Box 200507
Helena, MT 59620-0507

MONTANA AVIATION CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

NAMES OF PARTICIPANT(S) (for name tags) _____

ADDRESS, CITY, STATE ZIP & PHONE _____

Your Organization Affiliation:
(choose one only for name tag)

MPA _____ MATA _____ MFF _____
MAMA _____ 99S _____ MAAA _____
EAA _____ AMAA _____ CAP _____
MSPA _____ OTHER _____

****Please indicate if you will attend the free Friday dinner/dance & free Saturday luncheon with number of tickets required – Person/Spouse & Family rate includes 2 dinner/dance & 2 Saturday lunch tickets. Additional tickets may be purchased - \$20 dinner/dance & \$10 Saturday lunch. To assure adequate meal count if no indication is made no tickets will be reserved.**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
MONTANA AERONAUTICS DIVISION**

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING RESERVATIONS

NOTE: **Meal tickets must be purchased 48 hours in advance.**

**TAKEOFF TO LANDING PACKAGE
(INCLUDES REGS. & ALL MEALS)**

_____ @ \$120/PERSON \$ _____
_____ @ \$230/PERSON/SPOUSE \$ _____
_____ @ *\$240/PERSON/SPOUSE/GUEST TOUR TICKET

***Includes 1-Friday Lunch ticket & 1-Spouse/Guest Tour ticket**

-OR- REG. FEE _____ @ \$55/PERSON \$ _____
_____ @ \$90/FAMILY \$ _____

Thursday Luncheon _____ @ \$12 \$ _____

Thursday Dinner _____ @ \$20 \$ _____

Friday Luncheon _____ @ \$12 \$ _____

Friday Spouse/Guest Tour _____ @ \$20 \$ _____

****Friday Dinner/Dance** _____ @ FREE \$ FREE

****Saturday Luncheon** _____ @ FREE \$ FREE

Saturday Banquet _____ @ \$30 \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____



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February, 2004

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